

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
sending a message from a client to a server, the message to establish a secure connection;
intercepting the ~~data message~~ at a security system associated with the server, the security system to perform authentication functions, wherein the performing of the authentication functions includes selecting an appropriate security format conversion; and
establishing ~~a the~~ secure connection if ~~proper authentications~~ once the authentication functions are performed completed.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~proper authentications~~ comprise performing of the authentication functions further comprises determining if the server is authentic authentication of the server if the client has requested the server authentication.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the ~~proper authentications~~ additionally comprise performing of the authentication functions further comprises determining if the client is authentic authentication of the client if the server has requested the client authentication.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said proper authentications~~ the performing of the authentication functions further comprises ~~comprise~~ validating digital certificates.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~additionally further~~ comprising decrypting the message if the message is encrypted.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the performing of the authentication functions ~~further comprise~~ comprises:
the server requesting authentication from the client;
receiving a client certificate from the client; and
determining if the client is authentic, ~~said determining occurring~~ at the security system on behalf of the server.

Claims 7-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
~~one or more servers~~ a server to exchange data with ~~clients~~ a client; and
a security system associated with the ~~one or more servers~~ server, the security system to~~[[:]]~~
~~support authentication functions for authenticating the~~ authenticate an
identity of the one or more servers; the server, and
authenticate the identity of clients an identity of the client requesting a
secure connection with the ~~one or more servers~~ server, wherein the
authentication of the identity of the client includes sending a
message from the client to the server, the message to establish the
secure connection,
intercepting the message to perform authentication functions including
selecting an appropriate security format conversion, and
establishing the secure connection once the authentication functions are
completed.
20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein ~~said the~~ authentication
functions ~~for authenticating the identity of the one or more servers~~ comprises

comprise:

requesting ~~a server certificates~~ certificate from a certificate authority; and
in response to ~~a the~~ client requesting authentication from ~~one of the one or more~~
~~servers~~ the server, sending a server certificate to the client.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein ~~said the~~ authenticating of
the identity of ~~clients~~ the client ~~requesting a secure connection with the one or~~
~~more servers~~ comprises:

updating a certificate revocation list (CRL);

receiving a client certificate from ~~a the~~ client requesting ~~a the~~ secure connection
with ~~a given one of the one or more servers~~ server associated with the
security system;

determining if the client certificate is on the CRL; and

if the client certificate is on the CRL, ~~then~~ denying the client access to the ~~given~~
server.

Claims 22-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data
representing ~~sequences~~ sets of instructions, ~~the sequences of instructions~~ which,
when executed by a ~~processor~~ machine, cause the ~~processor~~ machine to perform
~~the following:~~
~~receive~~ send a message from a client to a server, the message to establish a secure
connection;
intercept the ~~data~~ message at a security system associated with the server, the
security system to perform authentication functions, wherein the
performing of the authentication functions include selecting an appropriate

- security format conversion; and
- establish ~~a~~ the secure connection if ~~proper authentications~~ once the authentication functions are performed completed.
27. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the ~~proper authentications comprise performing of the authentication functions further comprises~~ determining if the server is authentic authentication of server if the client has requested the server authentication.
28. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the message comprises a client certificate to validate ~~the~~ an identity of the client, and ~~said the performing of the proper authentications authentication functions further~~ comprises validating the client certificate.
29. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the ~~performing of the authentication functions comprise~~ further comprises:
the ~~security system~~ server requesting authentication from the client ~~on behalf of the server~~;
receiving ~~a~~ the client certificate from the client; and
determining if the client is authentic, ~~said determining occurring~~ at the security system on behalf of the server.
30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
~~at least one~~ a processor; and
a machine-readable medium having instructions encoded thereon, which when
executed by the processor, ~~are capable of directing~~ cause the processor to:
~~receive~~ send a message from a client to a server, the message to establish a
secure connection;

intercept the ~~data~~message at a security system associated with the server
to perform authentication functions; and
establish a secure connection if proper authentications are performed.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the ~~proper authentications comprise performing of the authentication functions further~~ comprises determining if authentication of the server is authentic if the client has requested the server authentication.
32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the message comprises a client certificate to validate ~~the~~an identity of the client, and ~~said performing of the proper authentications~~authentication function further comprises validating the client certificate.